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NORIBUMI KOITABASHI ET AL.

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 2853

December 4, 2001

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

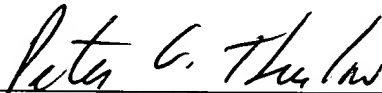
In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents identified on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the identified documents are also enclosed.

The cited references were called to Applicants' attention in a Search Report dated November 5, 2001 for European Patent Application No. 01110690.3, which is a counterpart to the instant case. A copy of that Search Report is enclosed, and the Examiner is respectfully directed thereto for a concise explanation of the relevance of the cited documents. Applicants note that EP 0 783 973, EP 0 855 270, and EP 0 914 954 cited on the attached search report were previously submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 15, 2001.

It is respectfully requested that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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